

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-35 (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing the taste characteristics of a beer comprising:

producing a ~~finished base~~ beer;

preparing a mineral additive by combining:

group A minerals selected from the group consisting of calcium from 5.9 mg/L to 236 mg/L, and magnesium from 1.3 to 52mg/L;

group B minerals selected from the group consisting of phosphorus from 3.0 to 360mg/L, potassium from 12mg/L to 480mg/L, silicon at 0.075mg/L to 30mg/L, sodium at 0.8 mg/L to 32mg/L, and chlorine at 0.9mg/L to 36mg/;

group C minerals selected from the group consisting of boron from 0 to 76 μ g/L, chromium from 0 to 0.4 μ g/L, cobalt from 0 to 0.4 μ g/L, copper from 0 to 17.2 μ g/L, iodine from 0 to 5.2 μ g/L, lithium from 0 to 1.6 μ g/L, manganese from 0 to 1.6 μ g/L, molybdenum from 0 to 2.0 μ g/L, nickel from 0 to 2.0 μ g/L, selenium from 0 to 136 μ g/L, tin from 0 to 01.6 μ g/L, vanadium from 0 to 0.12 μ g/L, and zinc from 0 to 104 μ g/L; and

group D minerals selected from the group consisting of iron 0 to 20 μ g/L; adding the mineral additive to the ~~finished base~~ beer; and

wherein the mineral additive enhances the taste characteristics of the ~~finished base~~ beer containing the mineral additive compared to the taste characteristics provided by a ~~finished base~~ beer diluted solely with water to which the mineral additive has not been added.

37. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, further comprising the step of diluting the ~~finished base~~ beer with water before adding the mineral additive to between 0.5% and 90% of its original strength.

38. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein at least some of the minerals of groups A, B, C and D is added in dry form.

39. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein the ~~finished base~~ beer is a stout beer and the mineral additive is prepared by combining:

group A minerals selected from the group consisting of calcium from 70mg/L to 143 mg/L, and magnesium from 15 mg/L to 32 mg/L;

group B minerals selected from the group consisting of phosphorus 36 mg/L to 360 mg/L, potassium from 144 mg/L to 288 mg/L, silicon at 9 mg/L to 18 mg/L, sodium at 9 mg/L to 20 mg/L and chlorine at 11 mg/L to 22 mg/L;

group C minerals selected from the group consisting of boron from 23 to 46 μ g/L, chromium from 0.12 to 0.24 μ g/L, cobalt from 0.12 to 0.24 μ g/L, copper from 5 to 11 μ g/L, iodine from 1.5 to 3.5 μ g/L, lithium from 0.45 to 1.00 μ g/L, manganese from 0.45 to 1.00 μ g/L, molybdenum from 0.6 to 1.2 μ g/L, nickel from 0.6 to 1.2 μ g/L, selenium from 40 to 82 μ g/L, tin from 0.45 to 1.00 μ g/L, vanadium from 0.035 to 0.075 μ g/L and zinc from 31 to 62 μ g/L; and group D minerals selected from the group consisting of iron 6 to 12 μ g/L.

40. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein the ~~finished base~~ beer is a pilsner beer and the mineral additive is prepared by combining:

group A minerals selected from the group consisting of calcium from 188 mg/L to 224 mg/L and magnesium from 41 mg/L to 50 mg/L;

group B minerals selected from the group consisting of phosphorus 96 mg/L to 360mg/L, potassium from 380 mg/L to 460 mg/L, silicon at 24 mg/L to 29 mg/L, sodium at 25 mg/L to 31 mg/L and chlorine at 28 mg/L to 35 mg/L;

group C minerals selected from the group consisting of boron from 60 to 73 μ g/L, chromium from 0.3 to 0.4 μ g/L, cobalt from 0.3 to 0.4 μ g/L, copper from 13 to 17 μ g/L, iodine from 4 to 5 μ g/L, lithium from 1.2 to 1.6 μ g/L, manganese from 1.2 to 1.6 μ g/L, molybdenum from 1.5 to 2.0 μ g/L, nickel from 1.5 to 2.0 μ g/L, selenium from 40 to 82 μ g/L, tin from 1.2 to 1.6 μ g/L, vanadium from 0.09 to 0.12 μ g/L, and zinc from 83 to 99 μ g/L; and

group D minerals selected from the group consisting of iron 16 to 19 μ g/L.

41. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein the ~~finished base~~ beer is a light beer and the mineral additive is prepared by combining:

group A minerals selected from the group consisting of calcium from 11 mg/L to 21 mg/L and magnesium from 2.6 to 4.6 mg/L;

group B minerals selected from the group consisting of phosphorus 6 mg/L to 360 mg/L, potassium from 24 mg/L to 42 mg/L, silicon at 1.5 mg/L to 2.7 mg/L, sodium at 1.5 mg/L to 2.8 mg/L and chlorine at 1.8 mg/L to 3.2 mg/L;

group C minerals selected from the group consisting of boron from 3.5 to 7 μ g/L, chromium from 0.02 to 0.035 μ g/L, cobalt from 0.02 to 0.035 μ g/L, copper from 0.8 to 1.6 μ g/L, iodine from 0.25 to 0.5 μ g/L, lithium from 0.08 to 0.14 μ g/L, manganese from 0.08 to 0.14 μ g/L, molybdenum from 0.1 to 0.18 μ g/L, nickel from 0.1 to 0.18 μ g/L, selenium from 6.8 to 12 μ g/L, tin from 0.08 to 0.14 μ g/L, vanadium from 0.006 to 0.011 μ g/L and zinc from 5 to 9.5 μ g/L; and

group D minerals selected from the group consisting of iron 1 to 1.8 μ g/L.

42. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein the ~~finished base~~ beer is an extra light beer and the mineral additive is prepared by combining:

group A minerals selected from the group consisting of calcium from 23 mg/L to 42 mg/L and magnesium from 5 to 9.5 mg/L;

group B minerals selected from the group consisting of phosphorus 12 mg/L to 360 mg/L, potassium from 48 mg/L to 84 mg/L, silicon at 3 mg/L to 5.3 mg/L, sodium at 3.2 mg/L to 5.6 mg/L, and chlorine at 3.6 mg/L to 6.3 mg/L;

group C minerals selected from the group consisting of boron from 7.5 to 14 μ g/L, chromium from 0.04 to 0.07 μ g/L, cobalt from 0.04 to 0.07 μ g/L, copper from 1.7 to 3.2 μ g/L, iodine from 0.5 to 1.0 μ g/L, lithium from 0.15 to 0.3 μ g/L, manganese from 0.15 to 0.3 μ g/L, molybdenum from 0.2 to 0.35 μ g/L, nickel from 0.2 to 0.35 μ g/L, selenium from 13 to 24 μ g/L, tin from 0.15 to 0.3 μ g/L, vanadium from 0.012 to 0.021 μ g/L, and zinc from 10 to 19 μ g/L; and

group D minerals selected from the group consisting of iron 1 to 3.5 μ g/L.

43. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein the finished base beer is a medium strength beer and the mineral additive is prepared by combining:

group A minerals selected from the group consisting of calcium from 11 mg/L to 23 mg/L and magnesium from 2.6 to 5 mg/L;

group B minerals selected from the group consisting of phosphorus 6 mg/L to 360 mg/L, potassium from 24 mg/L to 48 mg/L, silicon at 1.5 mg/L to 3 mg/L, sodium at 1.6 mg/L to 3.2 mg/L, and chlorine at 6.8 mg/L to 3.6 mg/L;

group C minerals selected from the group consisting of boron from 3.5 to 8 μ g/L, chromium from 0.02 to 0.04 μ g/L, cobalt from 0.02 to 0.04 μ g/L, copper from 0.8 to 1.8 μ g/L, iodine from 0.25 to 0.5 μ g/L, lithium from 0.08 to 0.15 μ g/L, manganese from 0.08 to 0.15 μ g/L, molybdenum from 0.1 to 0.2 μ g/L, nickel from 0.1 to 0.2 μ g/L, selenium from 6.8 to 13 μ g/L, tin from 0.08 to 0.15 μ g/L, vanadium from 0.005 to 0.012 μ g/L, and zinc from 5 to 10 μ g/L; and
group D minerals selected from the group consisting of iron 1 to 2 μ g/L.

44. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein the finished base beer is a full strength beer and the mineral additive is prepared by combining:

group A minerals selected from the group consisting of calcium from 17mg/L to 36 mg/L and magnesium from 3.9 to 7.8 mg/L;

group B minerals selected from the group consisting of phosphorus at least about 9mg/L, potassium from 36 mg/L to 72 mg/L, silicon at 2.2 mg/L to 4.5 mg/L, sodium at 2.4 mg/L to 4.8 mg/L, and chlorine at 2.5 mg/L to 5.5 mg/L;

group C minerals selected from the group consisting of boron from 5.5 to 11.5 μ g/L, chromium from 0.03 to 0.06 μ g/L, cobalt from 0.03 to 0.06 μ g/L, copper from 1.2 to 2.6 μ g/L, iodine from 0.3 to 0.8 μ g/L, lithium from 0.12 to 0.24 μ g/L, manganese from 0.12 to 0.24 μ g/L, molybdenum from 0.15 to 0.3 μ g/L, nickel from 0.15 to 0.3 μ g/L, selenium from 10 to 21 μ g/L, tin from 0.12 to 0.24 μ g/L, vanadium from 0.009 to 0.02 μ g/L, and zinc from 7.5 to 16 μ g/L; and

group D minerals selected from the group consisting of iron 1.5 to 3 μ g/L.

45. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein the mineral additive is prepared by combining:

group A selected from the group consisting of calcium from 25 to 82 mg/L and magnesium from 6 to 18 mg/L;

group B selected from the group consisting of potassium from 50 to 180 mg/L, silicon from 0.45 to 1.5 mg/L, sodium from 3 to 30 mg/L, chlorine from 3 to 28 mg/L;

group C selected from the group consisting of boron from 0 to 0.060 μ g/L mg/L, chromium from 0 to 0.0005 μ g/L mg/L, cobalt from 0 to 0.0005 μ g/L mg/L, copper from 0 and 0.012 μ g/L mg/L, iodine from 0 to 0.006 μ g/L mg/L, lithium from 0 to 0.0015 μ g/L mg/L, manganese from 0 to 0.0015 μ g/L mg/L, molybdenum from 0 to 0.0015 μ g/L mg/L, nickel from 0 to 0.0005 μ g/L mg/L, selenium from 0 to 0.100 μ g/L mg/L, tin from 0 to 0.0015 μ g/L mg/L, vanadium from 0 to 0.1 μ g/L mg/L, and zinc from 0 and 0.100 μ g/L mg/L; and

group D selected from the group consisting of Iron from 0 to 0.020 μ g/L mg/L.

46. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, further comprising separately preparing the group A minerals and adding a buffer or acid to the group A minerals to adjust the pH of the group A minerals.

47. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the dilution is between 0.5% and 50%.

48. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing the taste characteristics of a beer comprising:

providing a ~~finished base~~ beer;

diluting the ~~finished base~~ beer between 20% and 90% ;

preparing a mineral additive by combining:

group A minerals selected from the group consisting of calcium from 5.9 mg/L to 236 mg/L and magnesium from 1.3 to 52mg/L;

group B minerals selected from the group consisting of phosphorus from 3.0 to 360mg/L, potassium from 12mg/L to 480mg/L, silicon at 0.075mg/L to 30mg/L, sodium at 0.8 mg/L to 32mg/L, and chlorine at 0.9mg/L to 36mg/L;

group C minerals selected from the group consisting of boron from 0 to 76 μ g/L, chromium from 0 to 0.4 μ g/L, cobalt from 0 to 0.4 μ g/L, copper from 0 to 17.2 μ g/L, iodine from 0 to 5.2 μ g/L, lithium from 0 to 1.6 μ g/L, manganese from 0 to 1.6 μ g/L, molybdenum from 0 to 2.0 μ g/L, nickel from 0 to 2.0 μ g/L, selenium from 0 to 136 μ g/L, tin from 0 to 01.6 μ g/L, vanadium from 0 to 0.12 μ g/L, and zinc from 0 to 104 μ g/L; and

group D minerals selected from the group consisting of iron 0 to 20 μ g/L; adding a mineral additive to the diluted ~~finished base~~ beer; and gassing with carbon dioxide to thereby carbonate the beer;

wherein the mineral additive enhances taste characteristics of the ~~finished base beer containing the mineral additive~~ compared to the taste characteristics provided by a ~~finished base beer diluted solely with water to which the mineral additive has not been added~~.

49. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, further comprising diluting the ~~finished base beer~~ between 0.5% and 5% prior to the step of adding the mineral additive.

50. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein: phosphorous is provided or partially provided in the form of KH_2PO_4 (monobasic potassium phosphate);

potassium is provided or partially provided in the form of KH_2PO_4 (monobasic potassium phosphate) or KHCO_3 (potassium bicarbonate);

silicon is provided in the form of $\text{Na}_2\text{SiO}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (sodium metasilicate);

sodium is provided wholly or partially in a form selected from the group consisting of NaHCO_3 (sodium bicarbonate), $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (sodium tetraborate), NaCl (sodium chloride), $\text{Na}_2\text{MoO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (sodium molybdate), $\text{Na}_2\text{SeO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (sodium selenate), Na_2SeO_3 (sodium selenite), $\text{Na}_2\text{SiO}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (sodium silicate), Na_2SO_4 and $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (sodium sulphate); and

chlorine is provided wholly or partially in a form selected from the group consisting of NaCl (sodium chloride), KCl (potassium chloride), CaCl_2 (calcium chloride) and MgCl_2 (magnesium chloride).

51. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein, if present in the ~~finished base beer~~,

boron is provided wholly or partially in a form selected from one of the groups consisting of $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (sodium tetraborate) and $\text{K}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (potassium tetraborate);

chromium is provided in the form $K[Cr(SO_4)_2(H_2O)_2].6H_2O$ (chromium potassium sulphate);

cobalt is provided wholly or partially in a form selected from one or more of the groups consisting of $CoK_2(SO_4)_2.6H_2O$ (cobaltous potassium sulphate) and $CoSO_4.7H_2O$ (cobalt sulphate);

copper is provided wholly or partially in a form selected from one or more of the groups consisting of $CuSO_4.5H_2O$ (cupric sulphate) and $CuSeO_4.5H_2O$ (cupric selenate); iodine is provided as (KI) potassium iodide;

lithium is provided wholly or partially in a form selected from one or more of the groups consisting of $Li_2SO_4.H_2O$ (lithium sulphate), $LiCl$ (lithium chloride) or $Li_2SeO_4.H_2O$ (lithium selenate);

manganese is provided wholly or partially in a form selected from one or more of the groups consisting of $MnSO_4.H_2O$ (manganous sulphate) $MnCl_2.4H_2O$ (manganous chloride); molybdenum is provided in the form of $Na_2MoO_4.2H_2O$ (sodium molybdate); nickel is provided in the form of $NiSO_4.6H_2O$ (nickel sulphate);

selenium is provided wholly or partially in a form selected from one or more of the groups consisting of $Na_2SeO_4.10H_2O$ (sodium selenate), K_2SeO_4 (potassium selenate), $MgSeO_4$ (magnesium selenate) and Na_2SeO_3 (sodium selenite);

tin is provided in the form of $Tin SnCl_2.2H_2O$ (stannous chloride);

vanadium is provided in the form of NH_4VO_3 (ammonium vanadate); and

zinc is provided wholly or partially in a form selected from one or more of the groups consisting of $ZnSO_4.H_2O$ and $ZnSO_4.7H_2O$ (zinc sulphate).

52. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, wherein, if present in the ~~finished~~ base beer, iron is provided in the form of $FeSO_4.7H_2O$ (ferrous sulphate).

53. (Previously presented) A beer made in accordance with claim 36.